

# Bayonet! Forward!



## 240<sup>TH</sup> Engineer Group Newsletter

15 May - 31 May 2006

### TWO MONTHS COMPLETE!

Two months have passed since we arrived in theater, and what a busy time we've had. We would like to thank all the family members back home. It is your support and dedication that allows Task Force Chamberlain soldiers to excel. Our strength comes from the knowledge that our families are safe and supportive of our efforts. Your letters and care packages bring a small taste of home each time they arrive.

### TRULY AN ENGINEER MISSION

The soldiers of the 240<sup>th</sup> Engineer Group are actively involved in making change in Afghanistan. The Construction Management Section (CMS) plays an integral part in the planning an execution of multiple projects on Bagram as well as oversight of engineer projects throughout Eastern Afghanistan.



SSG Polky inspects a concrete pour

The 240<sup>TH</sup> Engineer group supervises the coalition forces that are working within Combined Task Force Chamberlain. In this case, the Korean construction team is pouring concrete for a support wall that will be critical to some of the upgrades upon Bagram Air Field.



SSG Romano overlooks the project

Forces from Korea, American civilians, and American Engineers work together to repair damage to the war torn air field. SSG Romano is seen in the background of the above picture observing the progress of the re-construction mission.



PFC McGee performs a slump test

Once again a soldier from the CMS section is found in the heart of quality assurance. PFC McGee performs quality assurance checks by conducting a concrete slump test on the Incinerator Pole Barn Project. The Korean Army is heading up this project. PFC McGee is one of the Surveyors with CMS and performs various tests on concrete to assure its strength.



Coalition Teamwork

MSG Smith stands arms interlocked with a Korean officer and non-commissioned officer at the Russian culvert reconstruction site. Much time and effort has been placed into making the coalition concept work. The CMS section is at the forefront of working with the partnering Koreans in making the construction projects a success for all involved.

### Promotions



**PFC McGee's Promotion**

PV2 Mathew McGee is promoted to Private First Class (PFC) by his supervisor SSG Patrick Polky and the Company Commander CPT Crockett as the remainder of the company stands at attention in formation as the orders are read by 1SG Bernard.



**1 LT Stickney's Promotion**

LTC Swartz promotes Norman Stickney to the grade of 1LT in front of the soldiers of the 240<sup>th</sup> Engineer Group.



**1LT Campbell's Promotion**

CTF-Chamberlain Commander LTC Leslie N. Swartz promotes Jessica Campbell to 1LT.



**Promotion of SGT Shawn Hayden**

The promotion ceremony of SPC Shawn Hayden to the rank of Sergeant (SGT), and his becoming a member of the Non-Commissioned Officer Corp. He really wanted his wife Kristy here to promote him but the honor fell to SFC Sean Grimshaw.

### Physical Fitness/Coalition Building



**Polish Volleyball Challenge**

On Sunday morning, we attended a volleyball game at the Polish compound. The Polish came out ready to play in red uniforms, and we did our best to stay with them. They even won once. Great fun was had by all who attended.



**Tae Kwon Do Class with Koreans**

CPT Kim and CPL Lee from the Korean engineers help us out with an introductory class in Tae Kwon Do.



**SGT Libby makes the kick!**

SGT Dana Libby is caught in the middle of making a fabulous kick during the Tae Kwon Do class. Other soldiers seen in action are SSG Anthony Romano, SGT Roscoe Driscoll, Major Roger Scott, and 1SG David Bernard.

### Memorial Day Ceremonies



**Four Nations Remember Fallen Soldiers**

Combined Task Force Chamberlain Commander, LTC Leslie N. Swartz stands with Officers from Poland, Australia, and Korea in observance of Memorial Day. This ceremony was held in front of the flag poles and was observed by members of CTF Chamberlain. Addresses were given by commanders of the Polish and Korean forces, LTC Papierski, COL KIM as well as by Australian officer, MAJ Christie.



**LTC Swartz gives speech**

The last speech was given by LTC Swartz. Translators were present to deliver the remarks of each speaker in Polish and Korean.

Below is a copy of the speech given by LTC Swartz on Tuesday, 30 May 2006.

"In the United States the meaning of "Memorial Day" has been forgotten by those who celebrate it only as the start of the summer travel season. But millions still hold its true purpose in their hearts, and we join them today as we pay honor to the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines who have given their lives to defend the free peoples of the world. Some of these fallen heroes we know by name, some have been members of our own families. Others have names which no one remembers, and who are known only to God. But what they did is known to all, since we enjoy the liberty that they helped to preserve.

Ironically, while we serve here in this land so well known for poppies, in the United States it is the wearing of a red poppy on the collar that is the symbol of Memorial Day. Here is the story of that symbol.

In April 1915 the German Army unleashed chlorine gas against Allied troops in France, and within ten minutes of this gas reaching the trenches nearly 5,000 French soldiers were dead. The battles continued until May 25, and resulted in over 105,000 dead, wounded, and missing on all sides. After seventeen days of caring for wounded and dying soldiers, Canadian physician Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae wrote a now-famous poem entitled "In Flanders Fields" to memorialize the sacrifice of those brave soldiers. That poem starts with the famous line "In Flanders fields the poppies blow, between the crosses row on row..."



**MAJ Christie and COL Kim lay the wreath**

In 1918 Moina Michael read "Flanders Field", and wrote a reply of her own entitled "We Shall Keep the Faith". This was the spark that started the wearing of the red poppy to commemorate Memorial Day, and I would like to close with the middle verse from Mrs Michael's poem. My intent is that next year on Memorial Day when you have returned to your homes that you would remember this day for what it is, and remember this poem and the meaning behind it, and that you would join me in wearing a red poppy in honor of those who have died in the cause of freedom.

**"We cherish too,  
The Poppy red  
That grows on fields  
Where valor led,  
It seems to signal  
To the skies  
That blood of heroes  
Never dies."**

"We Shall Keep the Faith" –  
Moina Michael, 1918

Respectfully,

LTC Les Swartz  
CTF Chamberlain  
Commanding

Further pictures can be found at the  
240<sup>th</sup> Engineer Group's website:

[http://www.me.ngb.army.mil/Family/Family\\_Pages/240th/default.htm](http://www.me.ngb.army.mil/Family/Family_Pages/240th/default.htm)

The mailing address for letters and  
packages is:

Soldier' Name without rank  
240<sup>th</sup> Engineer Group  
APO AE 09354



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